(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) Though no target for overall industrial production was fixed for 1996-97 overall industrial growth was expected to be in double digit. As per the information available the overall industrial growth in April-January, 1996-97 was 7.5%. Deceleration in industrial growth has been mainly due to under performance in crude petroleum, power, fertilizer and consumer durable sectors. Sector specific strategy has already been initiated to remove the constraints in the under performing sectors. The Credit Policy announced recently by RBI is also expected to provide further impetus to industrial growth. Government has also proposed initiatives in Union Budget, 1997-98 for accelerated industrial growth.

[Translation]

Artificial Yarn

5517. SHRI N. J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there has been decline in the export of artificial yarn from the States including Gujarat particularly from the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this decline; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of artificial Yarn?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) State-wise export statistics are not maintained. However. India's overall exports of rayon filament yarn have declined from Rs. 105.34 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 65.68 crores in 1996-97. The decline is mainly attributed to production constraints, inter-alia due to the problem of pollution.

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost export of taxtile items, including rayon filament yarn, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Export of Textiles

5518. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of textiles during 1996-97;

(b) whether this target has been achieved; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the facilities being given to exporters to encourage the export of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) A target of US $ 11,800 million had been fixed for the exports of textiles (including handicrafts, jute and coir) during 1996-97. The achievement against the target has been US $ 11839.13 million (provisional).

In order to boost the exports of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Production of Core Industrial Sectors

5519. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in the production of core industrial sector in the country during 1996-97 as compared to the previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the effect on the general industry as a result of decline in the production of the core industrial sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Six infrastructure industries, viz., electricity, coal, crude petroleum, saleable steel, petroleum refinery products and cement registered a growth of 3.2% during 1996-97 as compared to a growth of 7.9% in the corresponding period of last year. The decline in the production of infrastructure sector has been due to under performance in mainly crude petroleum and power sectors.

(c) Development of a strong economic infrastructure in sectors like power, transport and communication is considered critical for sustained industrial growth. The extensive application of market mechanism in these sectors through de-regulation of production and distribution is expected to provide added stimulus. Foreign investment in these sectors is also encouraged to supplement domestic resources. An Infrastructure Development Finance Company with an authorised share capital of Rs. 5000 crores, has also been set up to finance infrastructure projects.

[English]

Coal Mafia

5520. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: